

Preserve these original documents in Cuba and bring digital images to the United States to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston;

Design, in a joint U.S.-Cuban collaboration, an onsite archival storage facility with wet and dry conservation laboratories.

There are so many individuals, U.S. companies, and foundations that have made the restoration of Hemingway's house a personal passion. They have dedicated time and talent, materials, and funding to this initiative for over a decade. I would just like to mention a few:

First are the foundations whose early contributions allowed this project and The Finca Vigia Foundation to get its feet on the ground, explore with its Cuban partners how to bring this dream to fruition, and put the first cornerstones in place. They are the Ford Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, The Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Stewart Mott Charitable Trust, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Next, I would like to recognize the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has recognized The Finca Vigia Foundation in Cuba as a U.S. Historic Preservation site—the only such site outside of the United States—and whose experience and technical expertise in preservation and cultural conservation have been invaluable.

I would especially like to note the contributions of Richard Moe, the former President of the National Trust, and Paul Edmondson, the current general counsel with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Several foundations and U.S. companies have been involved directly in the preservation projects or in providing financial support for this work.

The lead sponsor for document conservation has been the EMC Corporation, headquartered in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and especially Bill Teuber, Chris Goode, and Joel Schwartz from the company. EMC also reached out to Intel and Emulex, which also provided financial support to the project.

The lead sponsors for the construction of archival storage and conservation laboratories are the Caterpillar Foundation and Caterpillar, Inc., along with the AT&T Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and American Express.

U.S. professionals who have been critical contributors and participants in the technical, document conservation, construction, and architectural teams are William Dupont, the former chief architect with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and currently a professor at the University of Texas, San Antonio; architect planners Leland Cott and Henry Moss with Bruner/Cott & Associates; structural engineer Michael Henry with Watson & Henry Associates; structural engineer Robert Silman with Robert Silman Associates; landscape architects Patricia O'Donnell with Heritage Landscapes; preservation architect Mary DeNadai

with John Milner Architects; and Ronald Staley, a construction specialist from Christman Company in Lansing, Michigan.

Also very much involved are collections conservationist Wendy Claire Jessup and wooden boat curator Dana Hewson with Mystic Seaport.

In the first years of this project, attorney Thomas D. Herman provided invaluable pro bono advice, and attorney Michael Gurdak and his team from Jones Day have provided essential services throughout the project.

Special recognition must also be paid to the tireless work and engagement of Mary-Jo Adams and Robert Vila. Mary-Jo is the executive director of The Finca Vigia Foundation and is its very heart, soul, and beating blood. Without her efforts, this project would not have been possible.

Bob Vila is a builder, a well-known TV host especially of the PBS program "This Old House," and is a recognized building consultant. Bob has been involved on the ground in Cuba with overseeing every phase of the restoration of Hemingway's house and grounds.

Along with Jenny Phillips, he is the co-chair of The Finca Vigia Foundation, but more than anything, we know that, when Bob is on site in Cuba, all is right with the world and, if it isn't, he will make sure that it is.

Finally, I would like to recognize the work of Michael Mershon, who recently left my staff and who worked with me for over a decade on the Hemingway project.

Right now U.S. and Cuban technical teams are constructing a facility on the grounds to carry out on-site archival storage with wet and dry conservation laboratories. Known as the "taller," which means "workshop" in Spanish, this facility will ensure the longevity of the Hemingway papers. It will be the first building constructed in Cuba using U.S. materials and ingenuity since the 1950s.

The Cuban Ministry of Culture views this project as a possible prototype to be replicated across the country in the preservation of cultural heritage. The construction of this critical facility is possible because of the new regulations announced by President Obama in December of 2014.

With very little money and largely during a period of daunting obstacles created by a tense political climate, The Finca Vigia Foundation and its team of experts, in close collaboration with Cuban professionals and experts, have done a great service for the American people, the Cuban people, and, indeed, all of the people of the world.

With passion and professional skill, they recognized that the life, memory, books, papers, and home of Ernest Hemingway are above politics and policies, which are fleeting, while art is eternal. They understand that the legacy of Ernest Hemingway is a shared heritage, belonging to both Cubans and Americans, and in one of the best mod-

els of what can happen when Americans and Cubans collaborate, they have made sure that it will never be lost.

I am so very grateful to Jenny and Frank Phillips for walking into my office 13 years ago and sparking a remarkable and personal journey for me. It has offered me the rare privilege to meet and work with so many extraordinary Cubans and Americans and to participate in preserving our shared heritage around the life and artistic achievements of Ernest Hemingway. I cannot wait to see what the next chapter brings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVE ISRAEL, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I, Steve Israel, am submitting my resignation from the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy effective immediately. It has been a privilege and honor to serve in this position and one that I will never forget.

I believe strongly in the importance of robust programming for future and current military leaders facing ever evolving threats and challenges and West Point exceeds this standard with the top-notch education provided to cadets. In my visits to the Academy, I have been profoundly impressed by the leadership, students and staff, who should be commended for their service to our country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Academy moving forward as a member of the House Appropriations Committee and value my time on the Board of Visitors tremendously.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical procedure.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1875. An act to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 2845. An act to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee